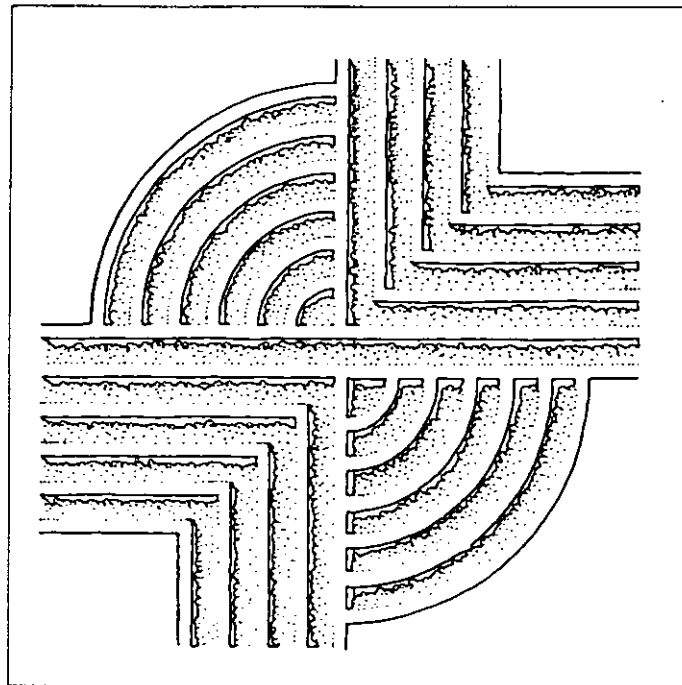


PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND CHARACTERIZATION
OF POTENTIAL CULTURAL RESOURCES ON A
900 ACRE TRACT IN BERKELEY COUNTY, S.C.



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 166

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**PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND CHARACTERIZATION
OF POTENTIAL CULTURAL RESOURCES ON A
900 ACRE TRACT IN BERKELEY COUNTY, S.C.**

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Chicora Foundation Research Contribution 166

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ABSTRACT

This study reports the results of what may best be described as a preliminary review and characterization of potential cultural resources on a 900 acre tract situated in southeastern Berkeley County, between Moncks Corner to the north and Goose Creek to the south, and just east of U.S. 52. This current study has not included any field investigations and is not intended to meet or satisfy cultural resources management goals of either federal or state legislation or regulations. Instead, it was undertaken:

- to provide prospective owners with a greater understanding of the potential cultural resources which may be encountered on the tract;
- to offer recommendations concerning the need for additional archaeological survey in order to identify potential resources; and
- to evaluate previous archaeological studies conducted on the tract and determine their current status.

The study revealed that the tract, portions of which were previously owned by Celanese Corporation, has seen at least two previous field studies which have identified five archaeological sites -- 38BK357, 38BK358, 38BK359, 38BK360, and 38BK598. The first four sites were identified on the basis of a fairly intensive survey conducted on a 77 acre tract within the current 900 acre property. The fifth site was identified on the basis of a power line corridor study, about 30% of which was within the study tract. In addition, the State Historic Preservation Office has identified two standing historic structures within the study area.

Although no detailed land use history or title search of the tract was conducted as part of this study, the previous archaeological investigations provide excellent information on the potential of the 900 acre tract to contain both prehistoric and historic remains. Based on this information, there is a strong probability that additional archaeological sites are contained on portions of the tract and an intensive archaeological survey is recommended.

Several of the sites previously identified on the tract, associated with the Spring Grove Plantation, were found by the State Historic Preservation Office to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Data recovery excavations were apparently begun, resulting in the accumulation of a large amount of significant archaeological data. The excavations were never completed, nor was a report produced, apparently because the property owner, Celanese Corporation, chose not to complete their development of the tract. Consequently, there is a need, perhaps translated into a legal responsibility, for any new owner to complete these previous studies.

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INTRODUCTION

Project Background and Goals

Chicora Foundation was contacted on March 13, 1995 by Mr. Ken Smoak of Sabine and Waters, with the request to prepare a proposal for a reconnaissance investigation of a 900 acre¹ parcel in southeastern Berkeley County (Figure 1). As part of our routine background check prior to preparing a proposal, we determined that at least portions of the tract had been involved in previous archaeological investigations, including seemingly unfinished data recovery excavations at two sites. During the ensuing discussions between the author and Mr. Smoak, it was determined to modify the scope, limiting the study to what might be called a "paper reconnaissance," or a "due diligence" study of the tract. In a proposal submitted to Sabine and Waters on March 15, the proposed work would include:

- coordination with the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology to determine what information they might have in either their curatorial or site files pertaining to the tract and the previous investigations on the parcel;
- coordination with the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office to determine the status of any compliance archaeology which may have been conducted on the tract in the past;
- coordination with the S.C. Department of Archives and History to determine the presence of any identified National Register eligible sites, buildings, properties or districts and the presence of any previous architectural or historic surveys which have incorporated this tract; and
- reasonable efforts to contact colleagues which might have information or knowledge concerning the tract or sites to determine information concerning the status of compliance work on the site.

We understood that the goals of the investigations were three-fold:

- to provide prospective owners with a greater understanding of the potential cultural resources which may be encountered on the tract;
- to offer recommendations concerning the need for additional archaeological survey in order to identify potential resources; and
- to evaluate previous archaeological studies conducted on the tract and determine their current status.

We indicated in the original proposal that our findings would not be offered as legal opinions, since we are not attorneys. Nor would it be possible for us to speak to the eventual determinations of

¹ Although specified to contain 900 acres, the mapping provided suggests an area of about 786 acres. The discrepancy is likely the result of transferring property boundaries to 7.5' U.S.G.S. topographic maps.

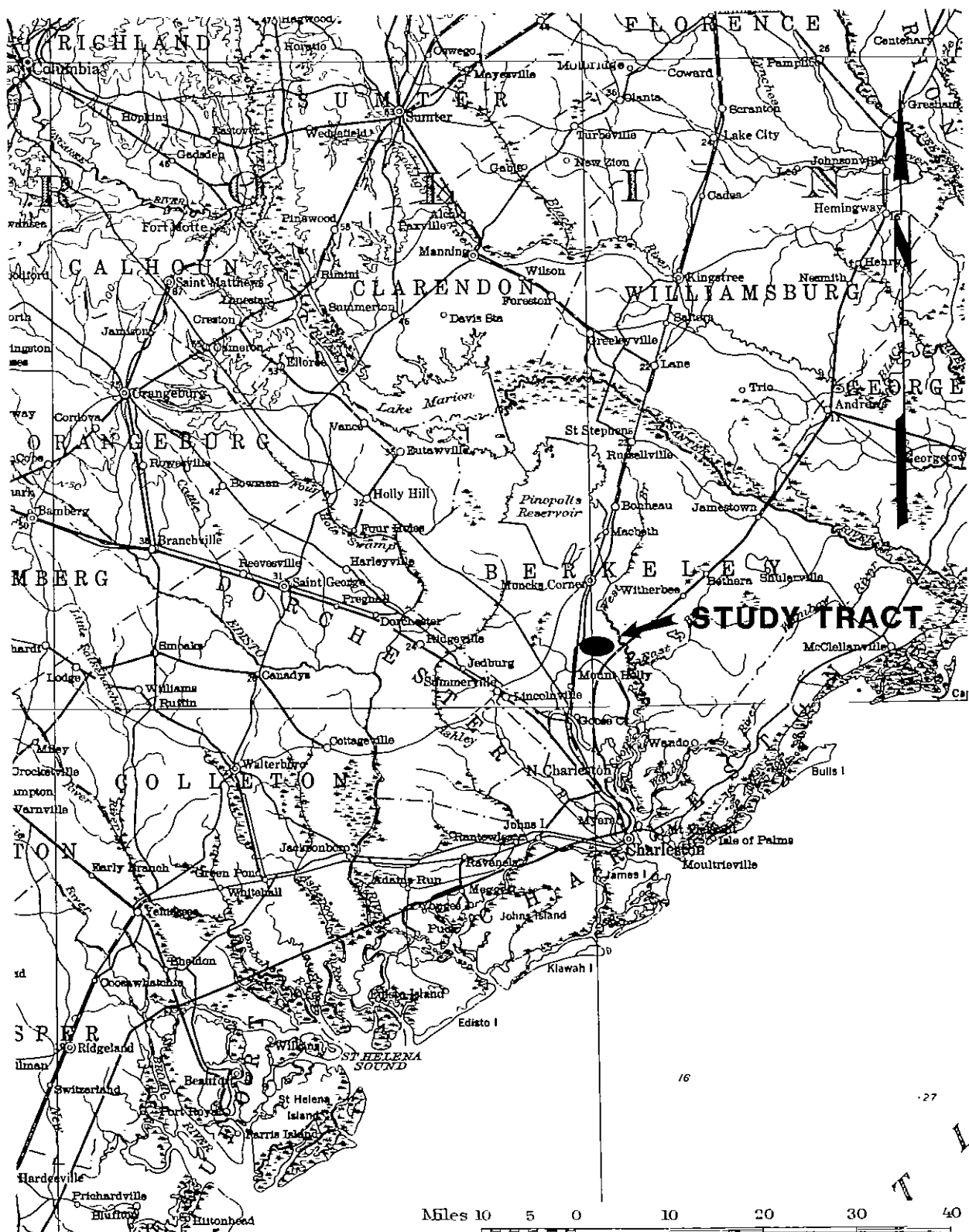


Figure 1. General project area.

regulatory authorities, although we would offer our best professional opinions regarding site significance, potential for additional sites, and regulatory involvement.

The proposed study would not include any detailed historical investigation. Nor would it include any field investigations. Both of these would await our findings and recommendations concerning the potential of the tract to contain cultural resources.

This proposal was accepted by Sabine and Waters and we were notified to proceed with the study on March 22, 1995. The process of collecting and evaluating data continued intermittently for the following three weeks, with a total four person days spent on the study and report production.

Project Area

The study tract, reported to contain approximately 900 acres, is situated between Moncks Corner, about 10 miles to the north, and Goose Creek, about 6 miles to the south, just east of S.C. 52 in the southeastern corner of Berkeley County (Figure 1). The tract, basically rectilinear in shape, is bisected by the swamp of Back River, with about equal portions of the high ground land on either side (Figure 2). The study area is bounded to the west by U.S. 52. It is bounded to the north and east by S-9. The southern boundary is constrained by the swamps of the Back River.

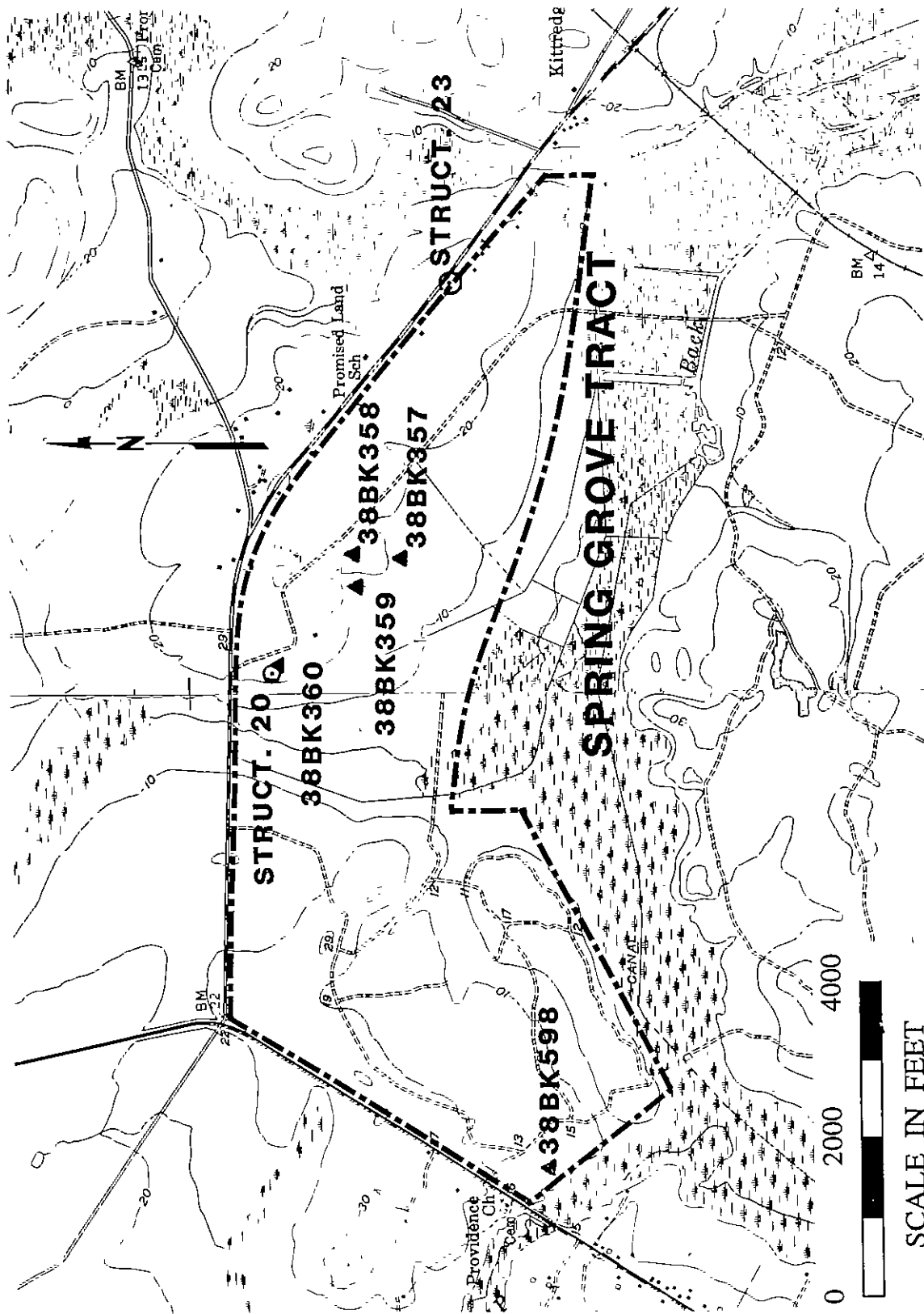
Soils in the project area consist of seven series: Bethera, Caroline, Craven, Duplin, Lenoir, Meggett, and Wahee (Long 1980:Map 74). These range from well drained (the Caroline Series) to poorly drained (the Bethera and Meggett series). Table 1 provides information on the soils in the study tract, which overall tend to be dominated by the less well drained series. This, however, is only to be expected,

Table 1.
Soils and Drainage in the Study Tract

Well Drained		0.6%
Caroline fine sandy loams, 2-6% slopes	0.6%	
Moderately Well Drained		34.3%
Craven loam, 0-2% slopes	5.7%	
Craven loam, 2-6% slopes	21.0%	
Duplin fine sandy loam, 0-2% slopes	6.5%	
Duplin fine sandy loam, 2-6% slopes	1.1%	
Somewhat Poorly Drained		41.0%
Lenoir fine sandy loam	0.8%	
Wahee loam	40.2%	
Poorly Drained		24.1%
Bethera loam	1.4%	
Meggett loam	15.2%	
Meggett clay loam	7.5%	

given the project location, the presence of the Back River and its associated swamps, and the relatively low topography of this portion of Berkeley County (elevations range from 7 to 8 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) in the swamps to as high as about 20 feet on the well drained sandy terraces overlooking the river swamp to the east.

The 1976 aerial photographs consulted for this study reveal that the portion of the tract to the east of the Back River was being actively cultivated. While most of these fields consist of either moderately well



SCALE IN FEET

Figure 2. Project area (taken from the Mount Holly and Kittredge 7.5' USGS topographic sheets) showing the project boundaries and identified sites.

drained Craven or Duplin soils, there were about 16 acres of somewhat poorly drained Wahee soils also under cultivation. These fields were divided by a number of windrows. On the west side of the Back River the aerial photographs reveal old fields, recently abandoned and beginning to grow up. Like to the east, these consist of both Craven and Wahee soils, in about equal amounts.

Sources Consulted

During this study a number of sources were investigated for information. These include: the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (site files under the direction of Mr. Keith Derting; reports under the direction of Mr. Keith Derting; curatorial files under the direction of Ms. Sharon Pekrul), the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (historic site files and National Register files under the direction of Dr. Tracy Powers), the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (compliance and review files under the direction of Ms. Nancy Brock and Mr. Niels Taylor), and Carolina Archaeological Services (now AF Consulting; project files under the direction of Dr. Lesley Drucker).

In addition, in an effort to file in blanks concerning the project Mr. Ron Anthony (formerly with Carolina Archaeological Services and now with The Charleston Museum) was consulted. An unsuccessful effort was also made to consult with Dr. Charles Poe (currently in Florida at E-mail address cbpoe@aol.com).

As discussed below, there may be project files on microfilm at the Army Corps' Charleston office. These are accessible through a Freedom of Information inquiry, which was not begun during the current investigations.

The results of these consultations will be provided in the following sections. No effort was made to conduct additional historical research. Nor was the project area visited during this study. Consequently, the observations and recommendations offered are based on the information available through these various sources and are not the result of any field investigation. Consequently, this study is not intended to be used for the satisfaction of federal or state cultural resource protection regulations.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Introduction

This section is adapted entirely from information and notes identified in the curatorial files of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology for Spring Grove Plantation (archaeological sites 38BK359 and 38BK360). While there is no author indicated, the files suggest that the information was compiled by Dr. Rebecca Starr and was written by either Dr. Starr or Dr. Lesley Drucker. The section is therefore set apart from the remainder of this text by a different typeface to clearly indicate that neither this author, or Chicora Foundation, claims this as original research. All footnotes have been added, usually to clarify or question certain statements in the original text. Editorial changes have been held to a minimum, and consist primarily of spelling out abbreviated words and standardizing spellings.

As discussed in the following section, Spring Grove Plantation was the primary colonial, antebellum, and postbellum property on the study tract. Consequently, its history is essentially the history of the 900 acre parcel under examination.

Property History

A lengthy succession of owners held title to the Spring Grove Property, after it was originally ceded to Joseph Wragg by Roger Moore in 1727 (Table 2). The tract originally constituted 1,346 acres of a large parcel which encompasses several thousand acres along the Cooper River and in other

Table 2.
Title and Property History of Spring Grove Plantation

Date	Grantor	Grantee	Acreage	Action
1727	Roger Moore & uxor	Joseph Wragg	1,346	Lease/Release
1764	Joseph Wragg	Judith (Dubose) Wragg	1,346	Will
1769	Judith D. Wragg	Judith Wragg (II)	221	Will
1781	Judith Wragg (II)	Joseph Wragg	1,566	Will
1795	William H. Gibbes (Master)	John E. Calhoun	200	Auction
1801	George Keckeley	John E. Calhoun	451	Sale
1810	J.E. Calhoun	Elias Ball	451/200	Sale/Auction
1817	George Keckeley	John Riley, Michael Keckeley	1,000	Pledge
1821	George Keckeley	Michael Keckeley	950	Assignment
1836	William H. Dawson	Lawrence E. Dawson	950	Deed
1843	Lawrence E. Dawson	William E. Bell	999	Master's Sale
1879	William E. Bell	E.B. Whiting	3,500	Public Auction
1896	Isaac Ball (executors)	Jules & George Huguelet	3,500	Deed
1905	Huguelet Trustees	E.P. Burton Lumber Co.	3,500	Deed
1908	E.P. Burton Lumber Co.	Cooper River Mining Co.	3,500	Deed
1909	Cooper River Mining Co.	W.L. Harris	3,500	Deed
1911	W.L. Harris	Pine Grove Club (Nathane)	3,500	Deed
1918	Pine Grove Club	Pine Grove Livestock Co.	1,330	Deed
1922	Pine Grove Livestock Co.	E.W. Durant	1,330	Deed
1934	E.W. Durant	G.D.B. Bonbright	1,330	Deed
1975	S.J. Legendre	Trustees	Tract A	Deed
1979	Mrs. S.J. Legendre	Trustees	Tract B	Deed

parishes of the South Carolina lowcountry (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* F, p. 382; *Misc. Rec.* B-3, p. 235). The Spring Grove property itself lay partially in St. James Goose Creek parish and partly in St. Johns Berkeley parish; its identity as a definable tract appears to have occurred by at least 1727, although no plats or other records which are referenced in later deeds for this early period could be located.

Joseph Wragg and his brother, Samuel, arrived in the Carolina colony from England and amassed large fortunes as merchants, landholders and moneylenders during the eighteenth century. Joseph Wragg's West Branch Cooper River lands, including Dockon (2,960 acres) and Spring Grove, were left to his wife, Judith (Dubose) Wragg upon completion of the probate on his estate in 1751. The Spring Grove property alone was appraised for a value of £4,000 (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* B-3, p. 235-277).

During his lifetime, Joseph Wragg lived in Charleston and was an absentee landlord of his Cooper River estates. Overseers and managers appear to have provided resident administration on several of his other holdings, and it is quite likely that Spring Grove was managed the same way.² Wragg's slave holdings were quite large, number 64 on Spring Grove alone, and over 40 at Dockon. In addition, he owned several town lots in Charleston and partnership interest in several commercial ventures in Charleston and Georgetown. His many mercantile and financial affairs were handled increasingly through various agents, including his son, John, who became the Wragg family manager and lawyer after Joseph's and Samuel's deaths (Charleston County Probate Records, *Misc. Rec.* 78-A, p. 68; *Misc. Rec.* 75-B, p. 486; *Misc. Rec.* 80-B, p. 926; *Misc. Rec.* 79, p. 81; *Misc. Rec.* 82-A, p. 64, 67; *Misc. Rec.* 83-B, p. 694; *Misc. Rec.* 86-B, p. 761).

The earliest plat which could be located depicting Spring Grove plantation indicates that it was originally a part of Dockon plantation (Figure 3). According to a division of the Dockon (Daucon) tract, two portions were formed by a line running parallel to the dividing line between Mepshew, Pimlico, and Dockon "to commence at the south side of the Tract adjoining Spring Grove and to continue from thence to the Head of the Landing Creek" (Charleston County RMC, O-7, p. 110 [1805]). The two halves of the former Dockon tract were to have a common line at Landing Creek. Swamp clearing and planting arrangements for equitable conditions on both sub-tracts were made by the division, as well as allocation of crop and expenses. Although this division is not the one which formed Spring Grove, it is clear that Spring Grove's location on the southern border of Dockon is comparable to its location on the earlier plat (c. 1795), which depicts no division between Dockon and Spring Grove. In addition, the repeated divisions and reallocations of small parcels of land which characterized the Dockon, Spring Grove, Pimlico properties during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries making it extremely difficult to arrive at any firm notion of the nature and conditions of Spring Grove's land use and size changes during that period; this ambiguity is exacerbated by the extremely poor graphic representation of the Spring Grove property through plats.

Joseph Wragg's estate included the contents of his residence in Charleston (furniture, silver service, china, glassware, paintings, library, etc.) valued at £2,908 17 shillings, his Dockon and Spring Grove plantations, and other properties outside the project area (Tables 3 and 4). As devisees of their father's estate under the execution of his wife, Judith, his children, John, Samuel, Judith, Mary, Ann, Charlotte, Elizabeth (and her husband Peter Manigault), and Henrietta Wragg, divided the slave

² There seems to be no substantive evidence for an overseer, or at least no evidence was found in reviewing the historical documents present at the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology. Therefore, it might be appropriate to acknowledge that while an overseer is possible, the plantation may have been operated by a slave driver (without any white presence).

half shaded yellow as is done in the above plot a north creek, white farm, meadow boundaries well marked and artificial as the above plain fully represents.

Figure 3. Plat of John Wragg's Dockon and Spring Grove plantations from 1776 (from S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology Spring Grove file).

Table 3.
Inventory of Joseph Wragg — Spring Grove Plantation, December 3, 1751

Slaves		
	Male	29
	Female	13
	Children	22
Livestock		
	Horses	8
	Oxen	25
	Cattle	77
	Hogs	15
	Pigs	12
Tools and Implements		
	Oxcarts	2
	Hoes	57
	Axes	20
	Spades	4
	Wedges	7
	Carpenter's tools	1 set
	Whipsaws	3
	Cooper's tools	1 set
Crops		
	Rough rice (bu.)	1500
	Corn (bu.)	600

holdings at the Charleston, Dockon, Spring Grove and Quarter House tracts into eight lots, so that each of them received 20 - 23 slaves each (Charleston County Probate Records, *Misc. Rec.* 79, p. 81; *Misc. Rec.* 82-A, p. 64; *Misc. Rec.* 82-A, p. 67; *Misc. Rec.* 83-B, p. 694 [1751-1757]). Servants on the Wragg estates appear to have been shifted extensively from one holding to another during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries (Charleston Probate Records, *Misc. Rec.* 75-A, p. 7; *Misc. Rec.* 75-b, p. 535).

According to Joseph Wragg's inventory, Spring Grove plantation was assessed as containing 29 male slaves, 13 female slaves, 22 slave children, 25 oxen, 77 cattle, 8 horses, 15 hogs, 12 pigs, 2 oxcarts, 57 hoes, 20 axes, 4 spades, 7 wedges, carpenter's tools, 3 whipsaws, cooper's tools, 1,500 bushels of rough rice, and 600 bushels of corn (Charleston County Probate Records, *Misc. Rec.* 82-A, p. 67). The property thus appears to have been a profitable rice unit containing a sizeable resident slave (and overseer) population, livestock holdings, and subsistence crop acreage in 1751. Unfortunately, no plats or plantation account book descriptions of geographic partitioning within the Spring Grove tract have been found to exist, indicating the exact location of such archaeological sites as the slave settlement, overseer residence, minor industrial areas, barns and storage outbuildings, croplands and plantation roads. There is a strong likelihood, however, that as many as seven cabins were located on the property during this period, as well as outbuildings, a stacking yard, possibly a winnowing yard, and barns.³ The rice mill probably used to thresh the Spring Grove rice was located at Dockon plantation, just to the north.

No specific information concerning Spring Grove was found to be available until 1769. Judith Wragg (II) was able to add 122 acres to her Spring Grove holdings upon her mother's death in 1769.

³ It seem likely that at least some of these structures were included because they tend to be common at rice plantations of this period. The reason, however, for mentioning *seven* slave houses is not clear.

Table 4.
Inventory of Joseph Wragg — Dockon Plantation, December 3, 1751

Slaves		
Cooper		1
Wheelwright		1
Shoemaker		1
Others, male		17
Others, female		13
Others, children		8
Livestock		
Horses		17
Oxen		23
Cattle		47
Hogs		10
Sheep		32
Tools and Implements		
Blacksmith tools	1 set	
Old iron	1	
Crosscut saws	2	
Grindstone & iron		
handle	1	
Shoemaker's tools	1 set	
Stone & steel mill	1	
Iron pots	?	
Pewter plates	?	
Dishes	2	
Griddle	1	
Fireplace irons & tongs	1 set	
Carpenter's tools	1 set	
Wheelwright & turner's		
tools	1 set	
Cooper's tools	1 set	
Oxcart	1	
Horse cart	1	
Hoes	38	
Axes	17	
Spades	5	
Wedges	7	
Reaping hooks	24	
Winnowing fan	1	
Crops		
Rough rice (bu.)	1600	
Corn (bu.)	730	

This tract of land between the Dockon and Spring Grove properties was conveyed to her "for the better improvement of her plantation at Spring Grove," by her brother John and her sister, Ann W. Gadsden; the remainder of the Dockon property was equally divided between the latter two Wragg descendants, with each new tract approximately 1,250 acres in size. After this period, John Wragg's tract became known as "old Docon: and Judith's land was called "Spring Grove" (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* S-6, p. 253 [1781]).

It appears that Judith Wragg II resided in St. Philip's Parish, rather than at Spring Grove or on her father's Charleston estate. Upon her death in 1780 she left "my plantation called Spring Grove and

all the Negroes, except old Quash and Nelly his wife whom I leave their Freedom and Liberty to stay in the House they used to live in, with a piece of ground to plant them a little provision" to her nephew, Joseph Wragg. In addition, Joseph received the working oxen, two ox carts, a horse cart, six cows and all the plantation tools and horses (Charleston Probate Records, *Records of Wills* 20, p. 89). At her death, Spring Grove was already assigned as collateral to help pay off some £20,000. Nevertheless, Judith Wragg specified that all of the "crop on the ground" at the time of her death should be sold so as to "cloath all my Negroes." Her share of the Wragg estate appears to have been substantial, as she divided her holdings in jewelry, silver service, gold sleeve buttons, china, lace, candlesticks, lamps, and fine furniture among her nephews, Joseph and Samuel, and her nieces. The two Wragg brothers were also heirs-at-law to the John Wragg estate; Joseph formerly assigned his shares of real and person property, as well as power of attorney, over to his brother Samuel by 1799, and possibly earlier. It therefore appears that Samuel Wragg gained control of a sizeable share of Joseph Wragg's original holdings through his aunt Judith, who died childless (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* Z-6, p. 1). Joseph's decision to relinquish control of the Cooper River properties may have been due to his having moved to Georgetown, where his household consisted of a wife, four children and 119 slaves in 1790 (Federal Census, South Carolina, 1790).

Other members of the Wragg family who held title to large properties between Dockon Creek and Back River included Henrietta Wragg Pogson (daughter of William Wragg) and Elizabeth Wragg (daughter of Joseph Wragg). The Reverend Milward Pogson, who had acquired control over Henrietta's properties through a marriage settlement, disposed of 97 acres of rice swamp and 57.5 acres of high land, along with 20 resident slaves and operational rice mill, valued at \$26,571 in 1817 (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* T-8, p. 46; *Charleston Courier* December 21, 1805). Elizabeth Wragg, who married Peter Manigault in 1755, held title to properties on the Cooper River (Dockon and Ashley Barony plantations) and in Charleston.⁴ Her personal estate during the 1820s and at the time of her marriage included a sizeable real estate holding: 4,060 acres of Ashley Barony, 5,500 acres of Pee Dee lands, 1,614 acres in St. Johns Berkeley parish, six house lots in Wraggsborough, one house lot in Charleston, and the Quarter House land. These holdings also included a total of 270 slaves (91 at Ashley River Planation, 166 at Dockon, and 13 Charleston servants). By her account books, six slaves had been brought from Ashley Barony to Dockon in 1820, while the Dockon population consisted of one boatman, one blacksmith, one carpenter, one nurse, one poultry minder, one driver, one stock minder, 43 whole rice hands, six half rice hands, and 35 children (South Carolina Historical Society, Wragg Family Papers). Her entire holdings appear to have been her share of Samuel Wragg's estate share in Wragg Barony, a parcel containing 12,000 acres in 1739. Samuel Wragg (Joseph's brother) had returned to his London commercial enterprises before 1750, and appointed lawyers to represent him in his joint tenancies with Joseph, including Dockon plantation. Upon Joseph's death, the Dockon property appears to have passed entirely to Elizabeth Wragg.

The end of Wragg family ownership of Back River lands occurred during the last decade of the eighteenth century, when that property was sold for debts (1789); it was finally sold at public auction to John Ewing Calhoun for £2,310 (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* M-6, p. 419). Although it is unclear how much of the transaction included Spring Grove, at least a small piece of some 200 acres was involved, which meets the description of the small "add-on" tract willed to Judith by her mother, Judith. This small tract thus appears to have been a part of Spring Grove from only about 1769-1795. It then became a part of the Pimlico holdings which ultimately became re-consolidated as Wappoola plantation under the present ownership of P.O. Mead of Moncks Corner.⁵

⁴ A citation for this, Anonymous 1902, was not found in the files with the text.

⁵ A citation of Drucker 1981a was indicated, but no list of sources could be identified for this manuscript.

Spring Grove became the property of George Keckeley around 1789; no conveyance or other record documenting the nature or content of the transfer could be located in archival or register records; however, Spring Grove appears to have shrunk somewhat under Keckeley from the 1,566 acres which characterized the Wragg holdings. Keckeley appears to have been a moderately well-to-do planter who became heavily debt-ridden shortly after 1800. In 1793 he sold Spring Grove for payment of debts in an equity action; the property is described at that time as containing 1,275 acres, bounded on the north by Dockon plantation, on the east by Mepshew plantation, on the south by the estate of Robert Hume, and on the west by William Broughton lands (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* H-6, p. 527).

Another portion of the Spring Grove property was the subject of a forfeiture by Keckeley to John Ewing Calhoun in 1801. Although described by a referenced plat as "that part of Spring Grove plantation . . . which lies on the north side of the main public road leading from Strawberry ferry," the 451-acre tract became officially recognized as a part of Pimlico plantation (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* E-7, p. 5). As his health continued to decline, George Keckeley assigned a member of his family, Michael Keckeley, as executor of his estate during and after his lifetime (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* O-9, p. 261); *Conveyances* R-8, p. 246, 248 [1817-1821]). By 1810, George Keckeley's fortunes were in deep decline; census records reflect only one to three slaves in his household, while Michael Keckeley reported 15 -19 servants for his household (Federal Census, South Carolina, 1810, 1820). The George Keckeley lands thus appears to have been sold off from shortly after 1790 through the early 1800's, resulting in fragmentation of some of these properties and attachment to Ball, Pogson (Wragg), and Calhoun lands (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* K-15, p. 47).

In 1810 John E. Calhoun sold a small portion of Pimlico (200 acres) and the northern part of Spring Grove (451 acres) to Elias Ball for £3,600. This parcel of property almost certainly encompasses the old Dockon/Spring Grove lands, since it is described as "all that other plantation or tract of land containing 451 acres more or less, bought from George Keckeley which lies on the north side of the main Strawberry Road" (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* C-8, p. 104). Ball had also obtained the old Colleton tract of Mepshew, which was bordered to the west by the estates of John Wragg and Judith Wragg (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* B-8, p. 39), and managed other family estates, as well as Strawberry Ferry. The Ball family had petitioned the state as early as c. 1748 for rights to the ferry, due to their ownership of the land bordering the Cooper River; John Ball paid rental of \$200 from 1821-1824 (South Carolina Historical Society, Ball Family Papers). Dr. Elias Ball was the son of John Ball, and provided mostly absentee management of his Backriver, Coming Tee, and other plantations, preferring to reside mostly in Charleston and at Limerick plantation.

The remaining parcel of Spring Grove retained by Keckeley after 1801 was posted for bond to obtain bank credit of \$12,000 in 1817. At that time, Spring Grove consisted of 1,000 acres and was founded to the north, east, and south by lands of John Ball, and to the west and southwest by Moncks Corner Road (present U.S. Highway 52) (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyance* R-8, p. 246, 248). As his debts mounted, George Keckeley continued to pledge and assign his plantation properties, including Spring Grove. Mortgages were foreclosed after this death, and the Spring Grove plantation is described as containing about 950 acres "consisting of rice . . . and a provision of pine lands," bounded to the north by Strawberry Ferry Road, to the east by lands of the late Elias Ball, to the south by Cypress Grove, and to the west by Moncks Corner Road. Its status as an operational rice plantation, however, is indicated by specific mention of tools, instruments, livestock (cattle, mules, hogs, horses), poultry, and 40 slaves (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* O-9, p. 261). Neither George nor Michael Keckeley appear to have been prominent planters, and George's death in 1829 produced no profitable proceeds to his widow or son (Charleston Probate Records, *Record of Wills* 38, p. 616; Federal Census for South Carolina, 1810, 1820).

By 1836 Spring Grove had again been transformed in equity and mortgage procedures from William H. Dawson to Lawrence E. Dawson for \$9,000. The property still contained 950 acres and was described by the same boundaries which characterized it when Keckeley received it in 1789: "This tract being the remainder of the tract . . . conveyed . . . from William Hasell Gibbs, Master in Equity, to George Keckeley, a part having been conveyed to John Ewing Calhoun." Again, the accoutrements of a working plantation are specifically mentioned, although the resources appear to have dwindled: 40 slaves, 25 head of cattle, 50 head of sheep, two horses, wagons, and plantation tools (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* L-10, p. 429). Dawson later bought a part of the Twenty Three Mile House Tract between Moncks Corner Road (U.S. Highway 52), Strawberry Road, and the Spring Grove plantation line, thereby expanding his Back River holdings to include all of the property between White Hall Plantation and Moncks Corner Road (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* A-11, p. 333 [1839]). According to the Federal Census of 1830, both William and Lawrence Dawson owned over 60 slaves, and appear to have been fairly wealthy landowners who lived in Charleston.

Lawrence E. Dawson was born in Charleston in 1799 and died at Carlowville, Alabama February 8, 1848 at the age of 49 years. He studied law with his relative, Col. William Drayton of Charleston, and was admitted to the Bar in 1821. He practiced in Charleston until 1829 when he moved to Beaufort District, near Coosawatchie, and continued practicing law until poor health forced his retirement in 1834. He then moved to St. Johns Berkeley, where he devoted his remaining years to planting and literary pursuits before moving to Alabama. His distinguished career included being elected a member of the State Legislature. Of his six children, two were born while the Dawsons lived at Spring Grove.⁶

In 1839 Dawson bought a part of the Twenty Mile House Tract between Moncks Corner Road (U.S. Highway 52), Strawberry Ferry Road, and the Spring Grove plantation line (Charleston County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* A-11, p. 333). An earlier conveyance (1830) had brought a large part of the Wragg estate into Dawson's ownership, and included properties on Wappoola Creek belonging to the William Wragg estate (Henrietta Wragg Pogson); these properties were bounded to the south by Elias Ball's lands bought from George Keckeley, that is, the small parcel of Spring Grove lands which were included later in Pimlico plantation (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* Z-9, p. 517). Thus, Dawson consolidated a sizeable portion of the former Wragg tract along the Back River/West Branch of the Cooper River from 1830 to 1840.

Dawson lost Spring Grove plantation to debtors, and the property was foreclosed at a Master's sale and sold to William Bell in 1843. The property apparently included some of the adjacent lands which Dawson had acquired prior to 1840, since a description of the property reads, "All that plantation or tract of land situate in the Parish of St. James Goose Creek . . . commonly called Spring Grove Plantation containing 999 acres, bounded to the north by Strawberry Ferry Road, on the south by land now or formerly belonging to Hampton G. Mcaughan" (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* N-11, p. 1). William Bell's interest in the Back River area appears to have taken active voice as early as 1830, when he bought Cypress Grove and Back River plantations, which adjoined each other and totalled 2,073 acres. These properties adjoined Spring Grove, since they are described as being bounded on the north and northwest by lands of William H. Dawson "late of George Keckeley, deceased," and "lands now or lately belonging to the Estate of the late John Ball, Sr., deceased" (Charleston County RMC, *Conveyances* A-10, p. 156).

Between 1820 and 1850 William Bell appears to have become quite prosperous, expanding his landholdings, slave holdings and industrial products. At 42 years of age, he owned property valued at

⁶ A citation of Dawson 1874:349-350 was indicated, but no list of sources could be identified for this manuscript.

\$20,000, owned 150 slaves by 1860, and produced 1,000,000 bricks at his brickyard, worth \$10,000 (Federal Census for South Carolina, 1820, 1850, 1860; South Carolina Industrial Census 1850, 1860). According to the Agricultural Census (1850), Bell owned over 4,000 acres of land, \$1,400 worth of livestock, and cropped rice and subsistence grains (Table 5). By 1860 his holdings had increased to 6,000 acres worth \$20,000 (S.C. Agricultural Census 1860). By 1860 it is possible that the William Bell who appears in the census is William Bell II, who appears to have inherited his father's estate. Although the estate was still substantial by 1860, Bell II was not without need of financial assistance. A resident of Charleston, Bell II mortgaged all of his plantations in St. James Goose Creek and St. Johns Berkeley parishes in 1860 to Martin T.N. Bell for \$66,400. This transaction included the properties "owned and occupied by William Bell, deceased, and known as Pine Grove and Spring Grove," plus adjacent lands conveyed to William Bell I containing a total of about 6,000 acres (Charleston County RMC, *Mortgages of Real Estate* O-14, p. 275; Berkeley County RMC, *Misc. Mortgages* E-5, p. 562).

Table 5.
Agricultural and Industrial Census for William Bell, St. James Goose Creek

	1850	1860
Acreage		
Improved	350	400
Unimproved	4,000	5,600
Cash Value of Farm (\$)	10,000	20,000
Value of Farm Implements (\$)	1,500	400
Livestock		
Horses	4	10
Asses/Mules	8	11
Milk cows	60	20
Working oxen	25	25
Other cattle	60	60
Swine	4	-
Value of Livestock (\$)	1,400	3,800
Crops		
Indian corn (bu.)	600	3,000
Oats (bu.)	50	-
Rice (lbs.)	6,000	300,000
Peas, beans (bu.)	100	50
Hay (tons)	5	25
Sweet potatoes (bu.)	400	2,000
Products		
Butter (lbs.)	100	100
Bricks (#)	1,000,000	1,000,000
(value in \$)	10,000	6,500

Ultimately, William Bell II lost Spring Grove and the other properties conveyed to his father. Spring Grove was auctioned at public sale for nonpayment of debts in 1872 and received by T.H.N. Whiting for \$5,025; however, tax litigation in 1874 delayed the title transfer until 1879, when the mortgage was foreclosed. The property was described as:

All that portion of the lands of William Bell, formerly of his father the late William Bell, deceased, embraced, . . . advertised and sold as Pine Grove . . . and Spring Grove, containing about 1,000 acres, making together about 3,500 acres situate on a western branch of the Cooper River known as Back River . . . Butting and Bounding to the north on the Strawberry Ferry Road separating it from lands of the Estate of James Poyas, northeast partly on Poyas known as Mepshew . . . partly on lands of William McBurney formerly of Elias Ball known as Dean Hall plantation, and partly on Back River (Berkeley County RMC, *Title to Real Estate* L-17, p. 607).

Through a series of legal receiverships, executorships, and bonding, the Spring Grove and Pine Grove properties were sold through a Masters in Equity sale to Jules G. and George A. Huguelet for \$3,500 in 1896. The lands of William Bell I were by that time held under bond by the executors of the will of William McBurney, who had bought Elias Ball's Dean Hall. Thus, a total of 3,500 acres (Pine Grove and Spring Grove) was involved in the transaction. The Huguelet brothers were Charleston merchants who placed the mortgage under bond for \$4,500; it was paid up by January 10, 1898 (Charleston County RMC, *Mortgage Book* R-1, p. 45).

As trustees for Jules G. Huguelet, George F. von Kolnitz and Henry Buist sold the Pine Grove and Spring Grove properties in 1905 to the E.P. Burton Lumber Company⁷, along with two other tracts which had been attached to the property package since the William Bell period, for a total of \$4,500 (Berkeley County RMC, *Misc. Rec.* C-9, p. 109, 417). By the early twentieth century, the property was

⁷ The E.P. Burton Lumber Company, which concentrated most of its activities east of Kennington Creek and Limerick Plantation is described in considerable detail by Thomas Feters (only a small portion of which is repeated here):

The E.P. Burton Lumber Company was established by a group of Philadelphia capitalists who purchases 48,000 acres of forested land on the east branch of the Cooper River. The mill was built just north of Charleston on the Cooper River, near the Charleston Navy Yard like the other Charleston lumber manufacturers, and transported the logs down the Cooper River to support the mill facility.

The early operations of the E.P. Burton Lumber Company were detailed in a report prepared by a young Yale University student, Fred E. Ames, in 1906, as part of his requirements for graduation.

Burton Lumber owned 34,785 acres of Berkeley County land outright and controlled the stumpage of another 10,000 acres. Ames found the land uniformly flat with small sink holes called pocosons scattered throughout the higher land. Hell Hole Swamp was the largest of the swamps in the Burton property. This body was drained by Turkey and Nicholson creeks, which formed the headwaters of the east branch of the Cooper River, and by Savannah Creek which flowed to the Santee River to the north.

Ames described the loblolly pine as the chief lumber tree of the coastal plain, and ranked it equal to the shortleaf pine, and at times equal to the longleaf pine which had "sticks" of hardwood from 10 feet to 50 feet in length. At this early date, most the land was owned by the Atlantic Coast Lumber of Georgetown or the E.P. Burton and A.C. Tuxbury firms of Charleston. The timber was distributed either in low swamp ground or on slightly higher, sandy flats with the loblolly predominant on the sandy flats. Loblolly was quick to regrow in the area and the combination of low land prices of \$1 an acre and low taxes of a penny an acre, encouraged the corporations to buy large tracts of land north of Charleston. The Burton Lumber Company, in fact, employed an forester to manage its timberlands, the only one of the three to anticipate future needs (Feters 1990:14,16).

under indenture for timber rights to three parties, who retained their option for timber harvesting until the 1930s. A massive sale and transfer of ownership of over 40,000 acres occurred between the E.P. Burton Lumber Company and the Cooper River Mining and Manufacturing Company in 1908, spanning areas of St. James Santee, St. James Goose Creek, St. Johns Berkeley, and St. Thomas parishes. The lands, mineral and timber rights, and building improvement easements were granted to the Cooper River Mining and Manufacturing Company for (among others) "All that portion of the lands of the late William Bell, deceased, sold as 'Pine Grove' . . . and 'Spring Grove' . . . " (Berkeley County RMC, *Misc. Rec. C-13*, p. 28).

The following year (1909), Cooper River Mining and Manufacturing Company sold their interest in "all phosphate rocks, marls, fossil substances, minerals or other deposits" on the Pine Grove and Spring Grove tracts to Wilmost L. Harris, inclusive of the same four Bell tracts which had remained together as one package until that time. This 99-year term included the right to "dig, mine, wash and otherwise prepare for market and remove" any said substances on the 3,500-acre Pine Grove and Spring Grove tracts (Berkeley County RMC, *Titles to Real Estate A-31*, p. 28). Harris in turn sold these tracts to trustees for the newly formed Pine Grove Club in 1911 for use as a hunt club. The club was to buy "all that portion of the lands of the late William Bell, deceased, sold as 'Pine Grove' and adjacent tracts, containing about 2,500 acres, and 'Spring Grove' containing about 1000 acres." Pine Grove Club also received all mineral rights conveyed to Harris by the Cooper River Mining and Manufacturing Company, the only restriction on the property being two deeds of indenture entered in 1903 for timber harvesting of cypress and pine on a large number of Cooper River plantations (Berkeley County RMC, *Misc. Rec. C-14*, p. 408; *Titles to Real Estate A-35*, p. 128).

It is interesting to note that the Spring Grove tract remained listed at 1,000 acres from the George Keckelely period (1817) to the early twentieth century entrepreneurship period (1911). Its linkage with Pine Grove and two other properties appears to have remained intact from the William Bell period (1843) to the Pine Grove Club period in 1911 also. This "package tract" of 3,500 acres appears to have represented a holding whose major use was a collateral, investment, and finally timber and recreational proceeds, so that by the end of the nineteenth century, its cypress (swamp areas) and pine (sandy upland areas) forests were its major asset. For this reason, its seems logical to assume that Spring Grove plantation's productivity in subsistence and cash crops fell dramatically after the George Keckelely ownership period, which ended during the late 1820s. Thus, by 1830, it appears that rice production had declined sharply, and by 1860 may have ceased altogether. No doubt black tenants continued to crop small areas of Spring Grove during the postbellum period, as well as care for the resident livestock. The Back River rice fields were no long maintained, however, and were converted to migratory waterfowl hunting preserves after the Civil War (Henry Lowndes, personal communication 1981).

By 1918 the Spring Grove and Pine Grove tracts had become consolidated as one property. The Pine Grove Club sold 1,330 acres of "Pine Grove" to the Pine Grove Livestock Company for \$52,800; this tract had been previously mortgaged to Joseph W. Barnwell for \$10,000 with satisfaction of the mortgage achieved in 1929 (Berkeley County RMC, *Titles to Real Estate A-46*, p. 111; E-5, p. 562). The major stockholder in the Pine Grove Club, E.W. Durant, bought "a tract formerly known as Spring Grove and a portion of tracts formerly known as Cypress Grove and Back River" from the Pine Grove Livestock Company for \$34,966.80 in 1922. The Spring Grove tract is described as containing 1,330 acres which formed the northern portion of a tract "now known as Pine Grove, . . . which was conveyed by the Pine Grove Club to the Pine Grove Livestock Company." Spring Grove property also included all the resident livestock and existing agricultural and farming tools, as well as any improvements made to the property by that time (Berkeley County RMC, *Titles to Real Estate A-50*, p. 378) (Figures 4 and 5) . It also appears that prior to 1918 small portions of property on the western boundary of Spring Grove had been purchased and were under active management by black landowners (Berkeley County RMC, *Titles to Real Estate A-46*, p. 111).

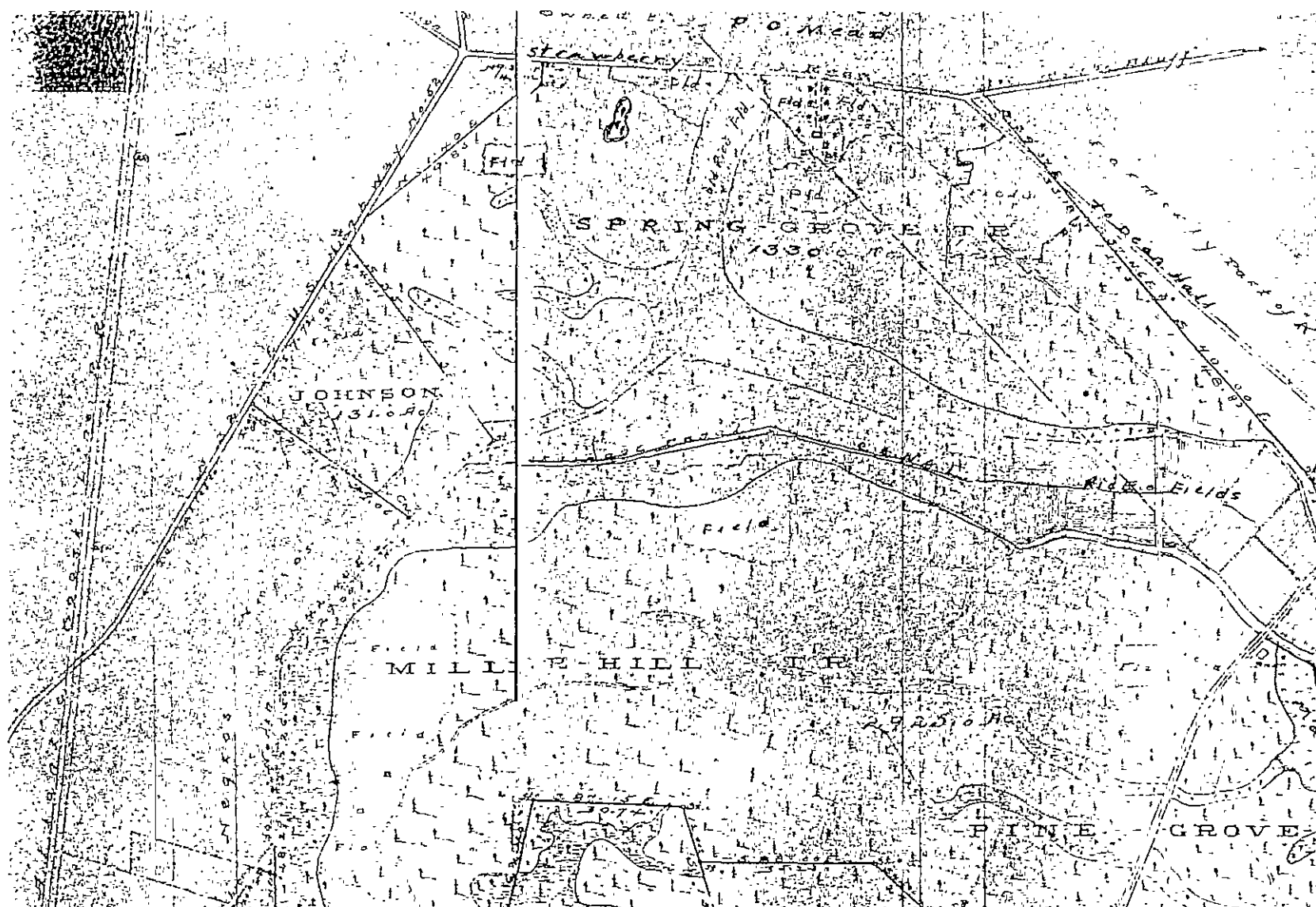


Figure 4. Undated (interpreted to be early twentieth century) plat showing 1,330 acre Spring Grove Plantation.

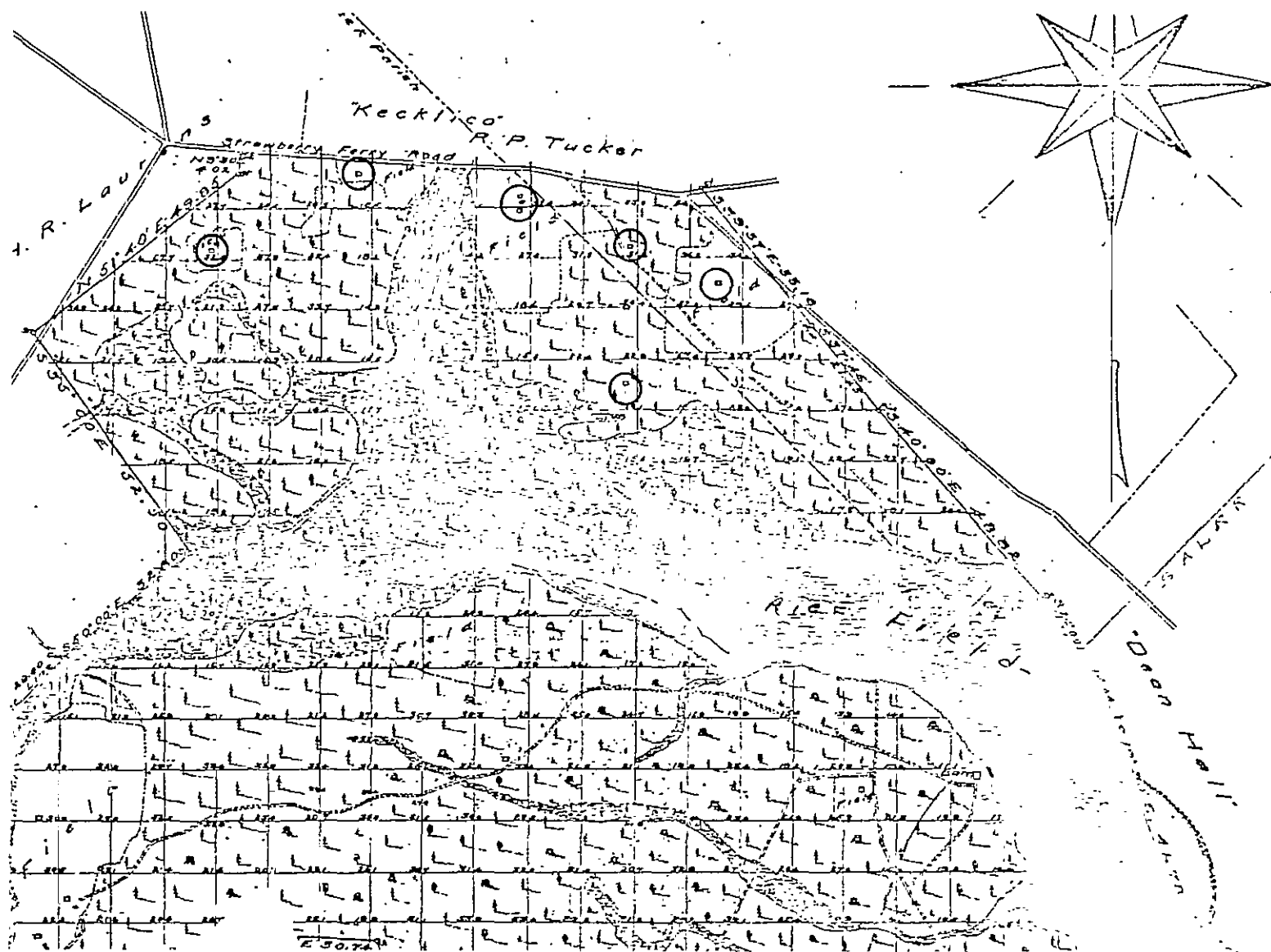


Figure 5. 1913 plat of Spring Grove Plantation shown as part of the Pine Grove Club (Berkeley County RMC, Plat Book B, page 105).

The Spring Grove tract, as well as the remainder of the reconstituted Pine Grove, Johnson and Donnelly tracts, were sold by Edward Durant into the trusteeship of George D.B. Bonbright of New York in 1929. Bonbright in turn sold all four tracts to Sidney J. Legendre for \$80,000 in 1934 (Berkeley County RMC, *Misc. Rec. C-28*, p. 272; A-57, p. 7, 8). The property, which was the same conveyed to the Pine Grove Club, was bounded to the north by lands of H.R. Laurens, Strawberry Ferry Road and Kecklico; to the east by Kecklico and Dean Hall; to the south by Back River and the rice canal (causeway); and west by Huff plantation (black landowners) and H.R. Laurens. The Spring Grove property at that time was depicted by plat and corresponds to the present location and bounds of Spring Grove (Berkeley County RMC *Plat Book B*, p. 105 [1913]), except for two acres on Strawberry Ferry Road which Edward Durant had sold to John Fordham in 1923. Pine Grove plantation is described as containing 2,500 acres, bounded to the north by Spring Grove plantation, to the east by Back River and lands of Stoney, Liberty Hill, and Mount Holly Development Company.

A plat depicting Spring Grove and Pine Grove plantations in 1947 lists Spring Grove as containing 1,330 acres and Pine Grove as containing 2,925 acres, indicating that the Pine Grove property was enlarged somewhat during the Legendre ownership period. By his death in 1948, Sidney Legendre had also enlarged Spring Grove to 1,461 acres, including a house and buildings. His entire estate of Medway, Pine Grove, and Spring Grove was assessed at \$3,826 worth of farm equipment and \$9,040 worth of livestock (Berkeley County *Probate Rec.*, Box 86, Package 18). Since Legendre raised thoroughbred horses on his Medway property, it is probable that horses and possibly cattle were grazed on the Spring Grove property as well.

In 1975 Gertrude S. Legendre (Weeks) conveyed Tract A of the Spring Grove property left to her by her husband's will to a trust to "sell timber and real estate, for cash or on terms, . . . and to borrow money secured by the mortgage thereon" This tract was bounded on the north by S.C. Highway 9, on the east by Spring Grove Tract B, on the south by the southern part of Spring Grove, and on the west by U.S. Highway 52 and lands of P.O. Mead, Jr. (Berkeley County RMC, *Titles to Real Estate A-314*, p. 45). Tract B was also conveyed to the trust under the executorship of Edward P. Madden and others in 1979, "being a part of Spring Grove Plantation, which itself is one of the tracts comprising Medway Plantation" (Berkeley County RMC, *Titles to Real Estate A-381*, p. 93; *Plat Book V*, p. 185). Tract B contained 435.0 acres, and was bounded on the north by S.C. Highway 9, known as Cypress Garden Road, and by parcels of numerous individuals; on the east partly by parcels and partly on the remainder of Spring Grove; on the east partly by parcels and partly on the remainder of Spring Grove; on the south by the southern (Back River) part of Spring Grove; and on the west by Tract A (Berkeley County *Will Book 2*, p. 400). According to country tax records, Tract B consisted of 25 acres of highway, 360 acres of high ground, and 50 acres of low ground (Berkeley County Tax Map 212, Block 2, Parcel 1, District 8).

Historic Synopsis and Its Implications to Future Cultural Resource Studies

The historic study offered by the Carolina Archaeological Services investigation of Spring Grove revealed that the tract had a long and complex history. During the colonial and antebellum period the property was the home to around 40 to 60 slaves, most of which were apparently engaged in swamp rice cultivation. These rice fields were located in the Back River Swamp which divides the tract into two high ground areas. While boundaries changed throughout this history, Spring Grove typically consisted of about the property currently under consideration. The rather frequent consolidation and subsequent separation of the tract from other parcels, combined with the many different antebellum owners, may have resulted in periods of limited owner occupation of the parcel, followed by refurbishment and re-use of the plantation settlement.

There are, regrettably, few plats available for the plantation. Figure 3, from just before the American Revolution, illustrates only one settlement. Situated on the high ground east of the Back River Swamp, the settlement is designated only by a structure. This suggests that archaeological deposits in this area will date from at least the late colonial period. It is not clear, however, if the slave settlement is situated at this settlement complex, or may perhaps be located elsewhere, closer to the rice fields. A plat not illustrated in this review, but dating from 1800 and showing the portion of Spring Grove north of the Strawberry Ferry Road (S.C. Highway 9) also reveals the presence of "an old tar kiln," suggesting that naval stores may have been an important secondary product of the plantation.

Figure 4, a hundred plus year later in time, reveals that this high ground area is still the major plantation settlement, with a main house at the end of an avenue leading to Strawberry Ferry Road and three additional buildings to the south. While this complex area is apparently contained by a fence, or somehow distinguished as a yard, it was surrounded by fields. "Old Rice Fields" are shown to the west of the settlement. No other buildings are shown on the tract. This suggests that main plantation settlement was not moved from the late colonial period, but still fails to provide information on the location of the slave settlement. The plat does, however, indicate that dikes and water control structures are possibly located in the Back River Swamp. A second settlement is shown on the Johnson tract, adjacent to U.S. 52, consisting of at least two structures. This indicates that at least one additional settlement is present on the study tract.

Figure 5, dating from about 1913, shows Spring Grove at the northern edge of the amassed property. The Johnson tract (shown with its settlement in Figure 4) is not incorporated into this plat. However, two structures are shown to the west of the Back River and six are shown to the east (three of which comprise the main plantation settlement shown in both Figures 3 and 4). This suggests a dispersed pattern of tenant settlement during this period.

While not included in the original study, the 1951 General Highway Map of Berkeley County (Figure 6), reveals the development of small tracts, with 10 structures and a school, along S.C. 9 on the northern and eastern edges of the study tract. The only structure identified for the tract itself is the main settlement, still in the central area of the high ground east of the Back River swamps. This same settlement continues to be shown on maps as late as the 1979 Kitteridge topographic sheet (Figure 2).

Therefore, the historical study and currently available archival resources indicate:

1. The presence of a major plantation settlement from at least the late colonial period through the antebellum period, and likely continuing into the early postbellum.
2. The presence of a number of smaller settlements both within and along the periphery of the tract during the postbellum.
3. The potential for dikes and other sophisticated water control devices within the Back River swamps, associated with the colonial and antebellum cultivation of rice.
4. The potential for additional production sites, such as tar kilns during the early history of the tract, brickyards during the antebellum history of the tract, and lumbering trams and camps during the late history of the tract.
5. No clear information on the number or location of the slave settlement associated with Spring Grove, except that between eight and 12 structures would be expected for a slave population of 40 to 60, assuming five individuals to a house.
6. No clear information concerning possible tenant occupation of the site and little information possible

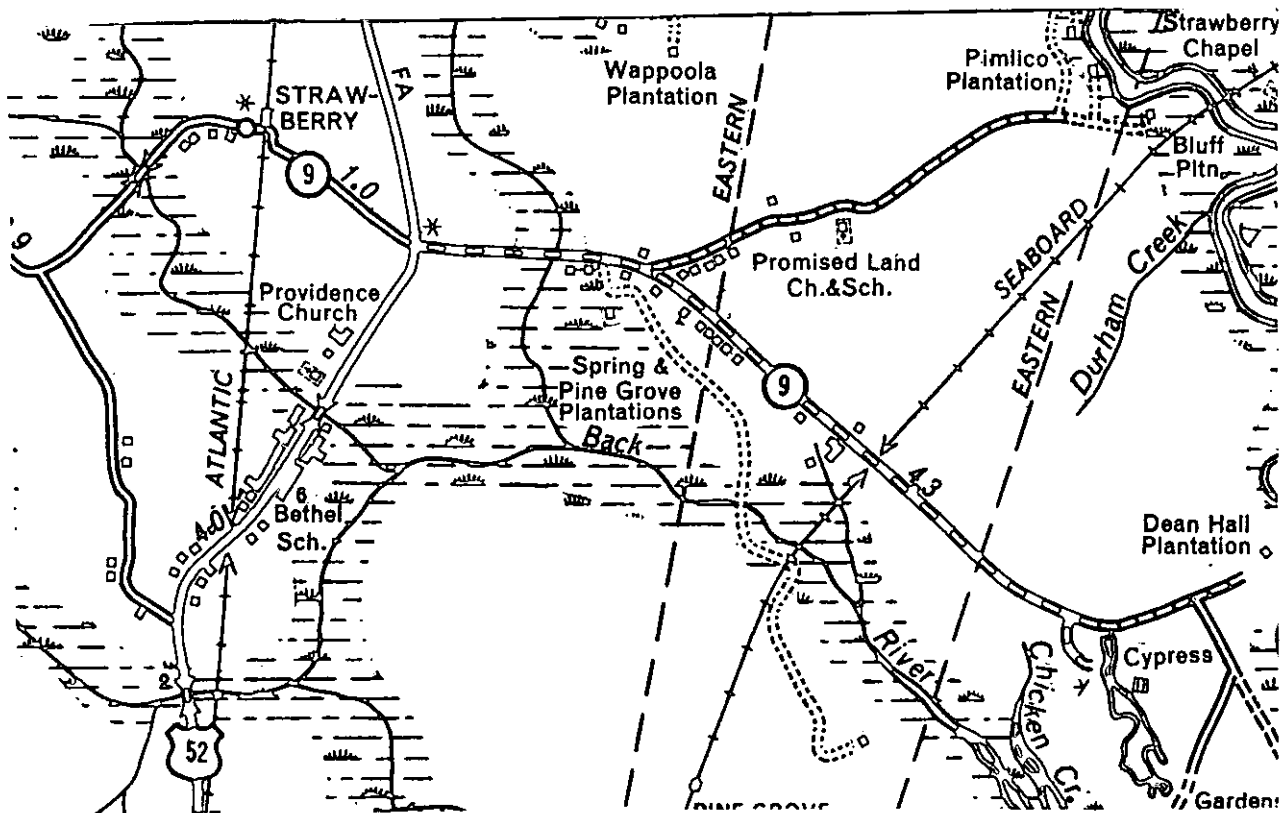


Figure 6. A portion of the 1951 General Highway Map of Berkeley County showing the project area.

use of the rice fields until very late in the property's history (see, for example, Vernon's [1993] discussion of rice cultivation by blacks in the Mars Bluff area of the Pee Dee during the twentieth century).

This information alone is sufficient to indicate (when compared to our current archaeological data base from this area) that an intensive archaeological survey of the property is warranted and that there is a high potential for the recovery of significant archaeological and historical sites.

PREVIOUS RESEARCH AND IDENTIFIED SITES

Architectural and Historical Investigations of the Spring Grove Tract

On March 22, 1995 I requested that Dr. Tracy Powers examine the S.C. Department of Archives and History master topographic maps to locate any National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) buildings, districts, structures, sites, or objects in the project area. At the same time, I requested that he provide us with the results of any structures survey that had been completed in the project area.

On the following day, I was notified that there were no know NRHP properties in the study tract, although a structures survey had been completed by Preservation Consultants in 1989 and that two buildings were identified on the survey. The first, designated U/19/0000/274 0020, was the Spring Grove Plantation House, situated about 0.4 miles west of S-260. The building was noted to be a single frame dwelling on brick piers built about 1930. It is recorded as having a rectangular floor plan with 1½ stories, having a lateral gable roof. At the present time the building is roofed with composition shingles. A one story porch is found on the full facade and has an engaged roof shape with post supports. Both single and double windows are present, all with 6 over 6 pane configurations. There are two internal brick chimneys. An oak allée leads to the site. Both a black and white and a color slide of the structure are present in the Archives and History collections.

The second structure, designated U/19/0000/274 0023 is situated 0.8 mile SE of S-260 on the south side of S-9. Built about 1915, this rectangular one-story frame house (with wing additions on the right and rear elevations) with a hipped roof covered in composition shingles sets on brick piers. A single story porch with simple post supports is found on the full facade and also has a hipped roof. There is one brick interior chimney. The windows are all single hung with 6/6 pane configurations. The current owner prohibited photographs of the structure.

No evaluation of National Register eligibility has been made on either structure. Such a determination would depend on the current condition of both structures (and documentation of the second), coupled with additional historical research and comparison to the extant resources of Berkeley County. For the sake of the current discussions, it is probably safest to *assume* that both structures are at least potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

Archaeological Investigations of the Spring Grove Tract

While certainly surprising, and of considerable concern, we have found that there is no satisfactory means of identifying the status of archaeological projects conducted in South Carolina, beyond those which are published and contained in the library of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). By this we mean that studies which, for whatever reason, are never published (actually written up in a final form), and which are not deposited at SCIAA, are virtually impossible to identify, successfully track, and/or review.

An examination of the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) site files revealed five sites previously recorded for the study tract (38BK357-360, 38BK598). The site forms identified that the first four were all identified during the same project ("Spring Grove Survey") conducted in August 1981 for Celanese Corporation and that several were apparently recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. With this information in hand, *A Comprehensive*

Bibliography of South Carolina Archaeology (Derting et al. 1991) was examined in search of a reference for this particular project. Since the publicly available data base is not indexed by key word or site number (although such a data base does exist at SCIAA), it was necessary to search under probable authors, based on a familiarity with the firm and the authors of the identified site forms.

No reference was found for the survey (this was later supported by the use of SCIAA's key word data base), although two citations were identified specific to two of the identified sites. For 38BK360, the citation was:

Anthony, Ronald W. and Lesley M. Drucker
1981 *Management Summary, Phase 2 Archaeological Investigations at Spring Grove Plantation, Berkeley County, South Carolina*. Carolina Archeological Services, Columbia.

Also noted was that this study was prepared for Celanese Plastics and Specialty Company, Charlotte, North Carolina, although the nature of the report was unknown (meaning that SCIAA did not have a copy in their files).

A second citation was found for the February 1982 survey of a transmission line which identified 38BK598:

Anthony, Ronald W. and Lesley M. Drucker
1982 *Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey for the Carnes Crossroads to Celanese 115kV Transmission Line Project, Berkeley County, South Carolina*. Resources Studies Series 48. Carolina Archaeological Services, Columbia.

This study was noted as being in the SCIAA library and it, in fact, was present (and is discussed below).

Associated with the SCIAA site files for 38BK360, was a proposal document for Phase 3 data recovery at 38BK360 — the same site referenced for the unavailable management summary. Sent to SCIAA for comment by the Army Corps of Engineers, the attached cover letter indicated that the project, while conducted for Celanese, was necessitated by their Army Corp permitting. The proposal also provided some project background:

A preliminary reconnaissance survey of approximately 77 acres slated for construction of major plant facilities was undertaken by Carolina Archaeological Services on behalf of Celanese Plastics and Specialties Company in August, 1981. These investigations, conducted in conjunction with an intensive literature and documents search, located a total of four archaeological sites [38BK357-360] within the proposed construction-associated impact area, which is located within Tract B of the Spring Grove Plantation property recently acquired by the Celanese Corporation. Two of the sites located [apparently 38BK359 and 38BK360] were recommended as constituting potentially eligible properties for the National Register of Historic Places, and a data recovery plan with management recommendations was prepared after an intensive testing and assessment program [a Phase 2 study?] at the sites was completed in September, 1981 [possibly the subject of the 1981 management summary]. . . . Presentation of the results of the initial reconnaissance and testing/evaluation projects was made by CAS on behalf of Celanese Corporation to the State Historic Preservation Office, the Governor's Office, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Based upon CAS' recommendations and concurrence by the SHPO and the Army

Corps of Engineers, a data recovery program was undertaken at 38BK359, one of the sites recommended as potentially eligible for the National Register [and presumably found eligible based on the Phase 2 study]. A detailed data recovery plan was devised for retrieval of artifactual and contextual information from what was believed to reflect a low-status occupation associated with the agricultural activities at the Spring Grove rice plantation during the late 18th/early 19th century. The results of this investigation, currently undergoing analysis and data synthesis, indicate that the site probably represents the residential homestead of a plantation overseer or manager, rather than that of a field slave (Drucker and Anthony 1979; Anthony 1979; Drucker 1981).⁸ This finding supports indirect evidence yielded by the documents and archival search which indicate plantation management by a non-landowner, and only sporadic occupation of the property by a non-resident landowner (Drucker and Anthony 1982, in press).⁹

The SCIAA files, however, offered no additional information on the status of the project, except that the site forms themselves indicated that when CAS re-visited the area in 1986 several of the sites had been destroyed by construction activities. Examination of the curation files revealed that Drucker had deposited a large quantity of field notes, photographic data, historical research (reprinted in the previous section), and analysis. Materials from 38BK357, 358, and 359 were deposited in September 1986. Materials from 38BK359 and 38BK360 were deposited in March 1988. In October 1989, a final installment of Colono ware materials were deposited from 38BK360 (Sharon Pehrul, personal communication 1995).

In order to better understand the relationship of these various sites and the project itself, I contacted Dr. Drucker on March 15, leaving a message. The following day I was able to speak with Dr. Drucker, explaining the current project and the nature of my inquiry. She recounted that the original survey, of "around 100 acres," identified several significant sites; that the project went through several stages — survey, testing, data recovery; and that the work was never written up. She explained that her memory was not good surrounding all of the events, but that to the best of her recollection, the client would not agree to fund the report production. She was not sure of the status of the State Historic Preservation Office's review of the project, but mentioned that the project was during a period when the SHPO did not have a staff archaeologist. She said that she would look through her project files (currently in storage) and would get back with me on the project. On March 22, Dr. Drucker called to say that she had found nothing helpful on Spring Grove, specifically no notes, no files, or research papers. In addition, she did not have a copy of the management summary reported in the SCIAA bibliography. She suggested that I contact Mr. Ron Anthony, who had been a partner in CAS and who is now at The Charleston Museum.

On March 23 I attempted to contact Mr. Anthony, leaving a message at The Charleston Museum. He returned my call on the next day. He recalled the project and, although not remembering the specific site numbers, did recall that the survey was "fairly intensive" and "probably found" all the sites in the initial 77 acre tract. He also recounted a phased approach, noting that the survey was not published as they intended to combine all of the work into one publication. He recalled that work concentrated on two sites. One was "downslope" (this is 38BK359) where he primarily worked and consisted of surface collection, stripping, and feature excavation. "Upslope" at a site around the standing structure (38BK360) work was conducted by Dr. Charles B. Poe. This site was also surface collected and tested. They proposed much more intensive work, but the funding for the project was cancelled. He believed that Celanese pulled the money on the project at the last minute because they were getting ready to sell the property, but was

⁸ None of these citations refer specifically to the Spring Grove work, but instead reference other studies, primarily the Spiers Landing site research.

⁹ This citation does not refer to Spring Grove, but rather to a project in McIntosh County, Georgia.

unsure of the regulatory status of the project. Mr. Anthony recommended that I get in touch with Dr. Poe, who was responsible for the majority of the work at 38BK360. He also noted that the last time he visited the site, in 1986, 38BK360 was still intact, although plant construction activities (a parking lot) had destroyed 38BK359.

Being unable to obtain a working telephone number for Dr. Poe, I located his E-mail address (CBPoe@aol.com) and forwarded him a message (on March 26, 1995) asking for his input, especially regarding the status of work at the site and any observations he might be willing to offer. While received, the message was never answered.

Concurrent with these other lines of investigation, I also pursued identification of project files at the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. My initial contact with Mr. Niels Taylor, SHPO Archaeologist, was on March 16. Mr. Taylor during these initial discussions thought that it would be difficult to identify the project files without more information from Dr. Drucker on "the name of the project." He also noted that according to some individuals, their files were on a 10-year retention schedule, meaning that project files pre-dating 1985 would already have been destroyed. He promised to begin checking, but thought that it might take a couple of weeks. On March 22, I explained that I had not heard back yet from Dr. Drucker and asked that he begin his search. I followed up this communication the following day, explaining that Dr. Drucker was not able to provide any additional information concerning the project. On March 27, Mr. Taylor explained that they were continuing to look for the project files, which one of their staff members thought might have been put in storage, but were thus far unsuccessful in finding them. At this time he also noted that he felt it would be impossible to find the files without a very specific project name, noting that the filing system used did not recognize key words (such as "Spring Grove," "38BK359," "38BK360," "Celanese," etc.). This was again confirmed during an April 5 conversation, when he re-iterated that key words were not sufficient to permit the location of the files — that a project name must have existed which none of us are familiar with. Without that name the files cannot be retrieved. During a follow-up conversation on April 18, I relayed the Army Corps Permit Number (P/N 81-5C-181) and Mr. Taylor was going to determine whether that would be adequate to identify the project file.

I have also spoken with representatives of the Army Corps, specifically Ms. Iris Winn of their Files Room. Ms. Winn indicated that their files are on microfilm and that the permit number (or the name of the applicant) would be sufficient to access the information. A Freedom of Information request, sent through the Corps' Office of Council, is necessary. By law the requests must be addressed within 10 days. This route has not been taken since we identified this source late in the project. In addition, we are not certain how much information concerning the archaeological sites may be contained in the Corps' files. Should no further information be forthcoming from the SHPO, however, these may be the only available source of documentation.

Archaeological Survey of the Associated Transmission Line Corridor

As might be expected, the proposed development of the Celanese plant also necessitated expansion of electrical service to the facility. In January 1982 CAS conducted a survey of the proposed Carnes Crossroads to Celanese 115kV Transmission Line Corridor for the Central Electric Power Cooperative (Anthony and Drucker 1982). Typical of the period, the study consisted of "an intensive pedestrian inspection," including "systematic and non-systematic methods" (Anthony and Drucker 1982:22). The authors note that only 30% of the corridor was "amenable to pedestrian survey" and only "15.5% of the entire length was deemed potentially habitable by past human populations" (Anthony and Drucker 1982:22). The major limiting factor were the low areas, often with standing water, as the corridor either passed through, or was routed along the edge of, several swamps (including Canterhill Swamp, Poplar Branch, and Laurel Swamp).

Perhaps the most useful aspect of this study was the observation that sites are rarely found in the vicinity at elevations below 11 feet above mean sea level, "particularly along the marshy margins of the Back River Swamp system" (Anthony and Drucker 1982:20). This information helps us to better evaluate the need for further survey of the 900 acre study tract.

Identified Sites

Four archaeological sites were identified from the survey of the 77 acre Celanese plant site, including 38BK357, 38BK358, 38BK359, and 38BK360 (Figure 2).

Site **38BK357**, measuring about 300 by 150 feet in size, was found primarily in fields and adjacent forested areas. It was described as a "low density and low diversity scatter of domestic and structural debris." Recovered were eighteenth and nineteenth century materials including creamware and whiteware ceramics, Colono ware, bricks, nails, clay pipes, and bottle glass. No rationale is provided for the assessment that the site was not eligible, although the site form does indicate that shovel tests and an indeterminate number of one meter test units were excavated at the site. A 1986 re-visit notes that the "site has been destroyed by industrial development," so its assessment is a moot point. A more detailed analysis of the artifacts recovered from the initial survey (and possible testing phase?) might assist in understanding why the site was recommended to be not eligible.

Site **38BK358**, measuring about 150 feet in diameter, was found in an area of fallow fields and secondary forest growth. The description noted, "low density and diversity scatter of artifacts. Several depressions noted, however testing indicated that these are probably natural features." The site form, however, indicates only shovel tests and auguring, so it is uncertain how these depressions were evaluated, or where they were located. Materials recovered included pearlware, Colono ware, bricks, and bottle glass. Like 38BK357, it was recommended as not eligible, without comment, although the assessment is moot since the site was "destroyed by industrial plant" by 1986.

Site **38BK359**, measuring about 200 feet in diameter, was found entirely within a fallow broomstraw field. While only 30 minutes were spent collecting the site, coupled with shovel testing, during the survey, it was apparently found to be eligible. During data recovery the site form indicates that systematic parallel transects were collected. This was followed by "removal of plow zone by heavy equipment and then hand excavation of features." These included a "well, poss[ible] privy, post holes, trash pits, [and] fence lines." Materials recovered included lead glazed slipware, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, salt glazed stonewares, alkaline glazed stonewares, porcelains, Colono wares, bricks, nails, clay pipes, gun parts, buckles, bottle glass, window glass, and "various agricultural and domestic hardware, buttons, beads, and other personal items, furniture hardware." The site form indicates that "site has received data recovery. Since that time, site has been completely destroyed by industrial development."

Site **38BK360**, measuring about 600 by 400 feet, was found on a "ridge top enclosed by several tree lines, several open, grassy areas around standing structure." Reinforcing this, the site was described as being:

within secondary forested areas and fallow fields around standing structure. Avenue of oaks and dense surface scatter of artifacts present south, west, and southwest of standing structure at end of avenue of oaks. Early to mid 18th century and 19th century materials observed. Domestic and architectural debris noted in several concentrations (38BK360 site form, SCIAA).

The initial site identification apparently relied on "systematic and random" surface collections, perhaps with shovel tests. Subsequent testing appears to have been block excavations to the west and southwest of the

standing structure. Recovered materials included lead glazed slipware, delft, creamware, pearlware, whiteware, Jackfield, salt glazed stonewares, alkaline glazed stonewares, Nottingham stoneware, porcelains, bricks, nails, clay pipes, gun parts, buckles, bottle glass, and window glass. The site was recommended as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places at the State level of significance. Rationale for this recommendation, while brief, pointed out that the "site contains intact deposits and [a] dense & diverse material culture assemblage. Organic remains are well preserved. Horizontal patterning of material has been demonstrated by SYMAPS. The site form, revisited in 1986, notes that the site integrity is good, that the "presence of intact subsurface features [has been] demonstrated by previous archaeological work by CAS" and recommends "data recovery to include extensive dispersed testing and block excavations and documentary/archival research."

The data recovery plan submitted by CAS to Celanese in 1982 and located in the site file at SCIAA provides some additional information concerning 38BK360:

Originally designated Site 4 during initial survey and testing of the Celanese Spring Grove tract, 38BK360 was defined by a surface artifact scatter across two cultivated fields and a secondary wooded zone separating these fields. The site area was listed as 76m x 197m (250 feet x 650 feet), or approximately 3.7 acres. Its maximum extent was north-south, and suggested the original location of a structural complex containing at least two structures and possibly other perishable outbuildings. About 98% of the site was contained in the open fields; surface artifact density within the eastern half of the southernmost field was moderate to high. A large-scale, systematic collection technique was used to attempt to isolate evidence of 1) horizontal stratigraphy (temporal stratification across the site) and 2) activity area patterning (functional stratification across the site). In addition to the surface survey, two manually excavated trenches were installed in high artifact density site areas to attempt to locate associated structural and feature remains in the subsoil. Postholes were located.

A prehistoric component identified at the site (Woodland aboriginal occupation) was poorly represented in the plowzone. Early to middle 19th century (Keckly-Calhoun) occupation materials were observed to be localized within the southern one-third of the site area, while late 18th to early 19th century (Wragg-Keckley) occupation materials occurred across the remaining two-thirds of the site and reflected more intensive occupation. The materials collected during the earlier survey and testing program strongly indicated that 38BK360 represents a high status (probable owner) domestic complex, including a detached kitchen or other brick dependency associated with the main dwelling (Drucker 1982:9-10).

This overview of the Phase 2 study at 38BK360 was expanded upon later in the proposal:

Assessment testing and investigation of 38BK360 was conducted late summer 1981 by Carolina Archaeological Services. A total of 16 pedestrian survey transects were laid out across the southernmost field in which the site is located (Fig. 1 [reproduced here as Figure 7]). These transects were collected according to field quadrants, in order to gain a broad determination of whether or not the site contained significant research potential. The surface investigations were supplemented by the placement of standardized test units (two block trenches) oriented east-west (1m x 4m each) within observed areas of either high artifact density or temporally defined artifact clusters.

A breakdown of the materials collected during the systematic transect survey indicates that the southernmost field contains a concentration of habitation refuse within its northern half. Kitchen debris (container glass, food remains, and ceramics) reflect a

maximum surface density within the southeastern and northeastern quadrants of the field, as do structural remains (brick, nails, window glass and structural hardware). However, the kitchen debris were found to be more loosely and widely dispersed across the western area of the field. Structural debris tightly, and almost exclusively, clusters within the eastern area of the field. Supplemental collection in the northernmost field and small wooded grove situated between the two fields also indicates heavy structural debris, as well as container glass, clustering around a small brick pile in this location.

This overlapping but clearly demarcated distribution pattern between kitchen refuse and structural debris suggests that a major residence (planter dwelling) existed toward the northernmost field, accompanied by one or more exterior dependencies, and that kitchen refuse was dumped or buried "behind" or south of this complex. Since this southern and western area of the southernmost field is also topographically lower in elevation than the northern and eastern areas, it is likely that this area would have been characterized by outbuildings, pens, gardens, and perhaps storage areas. Although none of the structural hardware or other surface materials were suggestive of craft specialization, the presence of large quantities of brick in census records for William Bell, the property owner during the mid-19th century, suggests that possibly a brick kiln or other craft area existed at this location (other examples might be a smithy, cooperage, or exterior oven) (Drucker 1982:15,17).

Drucker proposed an ambitious program of additional historical research, a 15% systematic unaligned random surface collection sample of the site, a soil resistivity survey, mechanical removal of the plowzone, plotting and excavation of identified features, and manual test excavations in the wooded site areas. Following this would be detailed analysis and report production.

Site **38BK598** was identified during the survey of the transmission line for the Celanese plant in early 1982. Covering an area about 20 by 350 feet, the site was described as containing both a prehistoric and historic component. The site form indicates that during the Phase 1 reconnaissance survey two shovel tests were dug, while during the Phase 2 intensive survey, three additional shovel tests were excavated. In addition five one-meter tests were also excavated, revealing plow scars and "a lack of features." The remains present included Deptford and Wilmington pottery, as well as a Morrow Mountain projectile point and a small quantity of flakes. Historic remains included several unidentifiable earthenwares, pearlware, bricks, nails, clay pipes, and several buttons. The site was recommended as not eligible for inclusion on the National Register because of "extensive disturbance, low density and variety of cultural materials, low potential for intact cultural deposits and horizontal stratigraphy, low potential for intact subsurface features."

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As previously discussed, this study was intended to (1) provide prospective owners with a greater understanding of the potential cultural resources which may be encountered on the tract; (2) offer recommendations concerning the need for additional archaeological survey in order to identify potential resources; and (3) evaluate previous archaeological studies conducted on the tract and determine their current status. The overview incorporated examination of readily available records, including those of the S.C. Department of Archives and History, the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office, and those of our colleagues. No field investigations were conducted. Likewise, no historical research was conducted, beyond that provided by Carolina Archaeological Services' previous efforts directed by Dr. Rebecca Starr.

Chicora Foundation's research reveals that there are likely a broad range of cultural resources present on the 900 acre study tract. This is documented by the two previous studies, which identified five archaeological sites, at least two which were eligible for inclusion on the National Register. They include prehistoric sites dating at least from the Middle Archaic Period, about 5000 B.C. through the Middle Woodland Period, about A.D. 500. In addition, there is excellent documentation for the Spring Grove Plantation site, at least portions of which were previously identified. In addition, there is cartographic evidence for additional late nineteenth and early twentieth century settlements throughout the property. It seems likely that at least some of these resources will be eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register. This is based on the previous discovery of eligible sites, information concerning site formation processes specific to the study tract, and the current status of archaeological research. Several of the sites previously identified, while plowed, exhibited intact subsurface deposits. These are extremely important for the recovery of in situ information. While the previous study by Carolina Archaeological Research was conducted over a decade ago, little additional eighteenth century plantation research has been conducted in Berkeley County (or elsewhere in South Carolina). Virtually no prehistoric research has been conducted in this region of South Carolina on swamp-edge prehistoric sites. Consequently, there are a broad range of significant research questions which sites on the tract may be able to address.

Related to this concern over the types of cultural resources which may be present is the issue of survey necessary to identify and properly evaluate currently unknown resources. There is no question but that the State Historic Preservation Office, based on the current information, would require an intensive archaeological survey of the entire tract. This is mandated by their own document, *Guidelines and Standards for Archaeological Investigations* as well as by precedent on similar projects. Since we know that significant archaeological sites occur within the general boundaries of the study tract and are recorded at the S.C. Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology it is virtually certain that any activities which are federally funded, permitted, or licensed, or which involve permitting from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (including the Office of Coastal Resource Management) or S.C. Land Resources, will require further survey of the entire tract. Since there is no publication on the initial 77 acre survey, virtually all of the 900 acres must be incorporated into the study boundaries. However, the previous investigations (specifically Anthony and Drucker 1982) do indicate that not all areas of the 900 acre study tract are equally likely to contain archaeological remains. Areas of very poorly drained soils below about 8 feet AMSL can likely be excluded from traditional pedestrian survey. These areas, however, should be explored for evidence of water control devices, since we know that the tract was historically used for the cultivation of rice. Areas between 8 and 11 feet AMSL should be explored using shovel tests at 200 foot intervals on transects at 200 foot intervals. Areas above 11 feet AMSL should be explored using shovel tests at 100 foot intervals on transects at 100 foot intervals combined with pedestrian survey if open areas

are encountered. Sites indicated by historic research must be specifically targeted for identification. These include structure locations, possible brick kilns, areas used in lumbering, and especially the location(s) of slave settlements. Previously recorded sites must be re-visited and evaluated. Such a survey can be expected to require between three and six weeks of field time. Finally, a detailed evaluation of the two known standing structures is also required by current cultural resource management regulations (as will be the recordation and evaluation of any additional sites found on the property).

Chicora's review of extant project files reveals that Phase 2 testing was minimally conducted at 38BK357, 38BK359, and 38BK360, with Phase 3 data recovery conducted at 38BK359. Phase 3 data recovery was also recommended (and apparently approved by the Corps and the SHPO) at 38BK360, but was never conducted. No report exists for the survey of the initial 77 acre tract, the Phase 2 testing, or the Phase 3 data recovery. Consequently, the compliance process at the original Celanese plant site appears to have been left unresolved. As previously stated, this is not a legal opinion. Nor is Chicora Foundation a regulatory agency. Our assessment is based on our best professional opinion using the data currently available to us. It seems highly likely that any new developer of the project area will be responsible for (1) completing the analysis and publication of the previous Phase 2 and 3 work and (2) completing data recovery efforts at 38BK360, should this site be affected by any proposed activity. This is in addition to the previously discussed survey of the 900 acre tract which may result in the discovery of additional National Register eligible sites. Analysis and publication of current materials would best be undertaken by putting together as many parties to the original team as possible. The process would likely require between six and 10 weeks of work. Data recovery efforts at 38BK360 would require preparation of a new data recovery plan (to be approved by the SHPO) and might involve upwards of six to eight weeks of field time with at least 10 to 12 weeks of laboratory, analysis, and report production time.

In summary, any new owner of the 900 study tract, who contemplates any permitting which reasonably would invoke cultural resource studies, should anticipate:

- an intensive archaeological, historical, and architectural survey of the entire 900 acre tract;
- completion of the analysis and report of Phase 2 and Phase 3 excavations at sites 38BK357, 38BK359, and 38BK360);
- potential data recovery excavations at 38BK360, already determined eligible for inclusion on the National Register;
- potential data recovery excavations at sites not yet identified; and
- architectural evaluations and possible mitigation efforts at the two known standing structures in the project boundaries (as well as at other standing architectural sites which are not at present known).

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